



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Department of
Environmental Quality

Kimberly D. Shelley
Executive Director

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
Erica Brown Gaddis, PhD
Director

December 16, 2021

**Division of Water Quality
Utah Department of Environmental Quality
Public Notice of Intent to Issue Permit
Underground Injection Control Class III Area Permit
In Situ Copper Recovery**

Purpose of Public Hearing

The Utah Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Division of water quality (DWQ) is holding a public hearing to solicit comments on the Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class III permit (hereafter referred to as Permit) as described below. As part of the Permit, Lisbon Valley Mining Company (LVMC) requires an Aquifer Exemption for a portion of the BC Aquifer (includes Dakota and Burro Canyon Formations) where it intends to conduct operations. The Division previously published a public notice of the draft permit and draft approval of this exemption pursuant to Aquifer Exemption criteria in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 144.7 and 40 CFR § 146.4.

After reviewing the public comments on the Permit and the Fact Sheet Statement of Basis (FSSOB), and associated documents in the permit record, DWQ has amended and is making available for a second public hearing two aspects of the Permit: (1) the proposed Aquifer Exemption Request (Permit Attachment M) and (2) the proposed financial assurance mechanism (Permit Attachment J). Specifically, the DWQ requested that the operator obtain and provide a third-party financial assurance estimate for the Financial Assurance that resulted in a revised amount for post operation closure of facilities associated with the permit. In addition, The DWQ has revised the Aquifer Exemption Request to more clearly outline the basis for approval of the exemption request. The modified elements of the Permit (Attachments M and J) are open for public comment. The Aquifer Exemption is also subject to approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Following public hearing and comment.

PERMIT INFORMATION

PERMITTEE NAME: Lisbon Valley Mining Co., LLC (LVMC)
FACILITY LOCATION: Lisbon Valley, San Juan County
MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 248, La Sal, UT 84532
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (435) 686-9950
FACILITY LOCATION: South Central San Juan County, Utah about 20 miles north northeast of Monticello and east of highway 191.
UIC AREA PERMIT NO.: UTU-37-AP-5D5F693

BACKGROUND

The Lisbon Valley Mine is currently an existing open pit heap leach copper mine and processing facility owned and operated by LVMC and is seeking a UIC Class III Area Permit to construct and operate Class

III in-situ copper recovery injection wells in south central San Juan County, Utah. This permit will allow LVMC to continue extraction of copper from ore within mineralized zones of a portion of the BC Aquifer (including the Dakota and Burro Canyon Formations) generally between 200 and 900 feet below the ground's surface in Lower Lisbon Valley. These resources are currently uneconomical to develop using open pit mining methods and LVMC is planning to extend the life of the Lisbon Valley Mine by adopting in situ copper recovery technology. The permit requires the operator to utilize best available technology in the construction, operation and closure of the in situ copper recovery facilities. It also provides for the monitoring of ground water and requires the operator to monitor the perimeter of the wellfield both laterally and beneath. Wellfield closure will follow copper recovery operations to restore groundwater quality by rinsing and plugging and abandonment of injection and recovery wells.

Hearing Location

Virtual Hearing: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82173966991>

Physical Location: State of Utah Multiagency Office Building (MASOB)
195 North 1950 West
Board Room 1015
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4870

Date: Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Time: Informational session at 6:00pm
Public Hearing at 6:15pm to 7:15pm

Public Comments:

Typed comments are preferred to help with clarity. Written comments are recommended to be submitted prior to the hearing via the DWQ web portal at <https://deq.utah.gov/water-quality/water-quality-electronic-submissions>. **With the included Purpose of Submission information: Lisbon Valley UIC Permit Aquifer Exemption and Bond Public Hearing Comments c/o Dusty Earley.**

Public comments may be made and recorded at the hearing and during the public notice period any time prior to Tuesday, June 1, 2021. Written comments will be accepted at the hearing. Prior to the hearing DWQ will hold a short informational session on the draft operating permit.

Additional Information

Additional information may be obtained upon request by contacting Dusty Earley at (801) 536-4088 or dearley@utah.gov or by writing to Dusty Earley at The Division of Water Quality, 195 N 1950 W, Salt Lake City, Ut 84114. Related documents are available for review on the DWQ web page at <https://deq.utah.gov/water-quality/water-quality-public-notice>.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with special needs (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) should contact the Utah State Accessibility website at <https://www.utah.gov/accessibility.html>.